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Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 3989 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
6 DECEMBER 1974:

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, TBIO
SUBJ: HEALTH EFFECTS OF PVC PACKAGING

REF: STATE 263361

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED STATUS OF CANADIAN INVESTIGATIONS
OF HEALTH HAZARDS INVOLVED IN POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC),
AND VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER (VC.) WITH DR. HAROLD GRICE,
DIRECTOR FOOD RESEARCH LABORATORIES, HEALTH PROTECTION
BRANCH, DEPT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND RS. WITHY
AND WILLIAMS OF HIS STAFF.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CANADIANS WORK CLOSELY WITH
US COUNTERPARTS, PARTICULARLY FDA, AND BASE MUCH OF
THEIR RESEARCH ON U.S. LEADS. FOLLOWING MAY 1973
ANNOUNCEMENT BY U.S. FDA OF PROPOSAL TO BAN PACKAGING
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE IN PVC CONTAINERS, CANADIANS BEGAN
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OWN INVESTIGATION OF PVC PACKAGED FOODS TO ASCERTAIN

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LEVELS OF VCM. ANALYSES PRODUCED FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

	PPM VCM
BEEFEATER GIN	UP TO 0.48
BEEFEATER GIN (GLASS BOTTLE).	UP TO 0
BEEFEATER MARTINI	UP TO 1.7
PIAT DE BEAUJOLAIS	UP TO 0.85
LONDON SUPREME SHERRY	UP TO 1.0
HEINZ MALT VINEGAR	UP TO 1.5
HEINZ APPLE CIDER VINEGAR	UP TO 8.4
PLANTER'S PEANUT OIL	UP TO 3.3
LOW CALORIA SALAD DRESSINGS	UP TO 2.0

THE FOOD COMPANIES INVOLVED WERE ADVISED OF THE HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH'S CONCERN OVER THESE FINDINGS, AS WERE MANUFACTURERS SUPPLYING SUCH CONTAINERS TO THE FOOD INDUSTRY.

3. HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH JUST COMPLETED STUDY ON BLOOD LEVELS IN RATS FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO VC VAPOR AND ACUTE ORAL DOSE. TENTATIVE FINDINGS FOLLOW:

A. EXPOSE OF RATS TO 1000 PPM VINYL CHLORIDE VAPOR:

--PRODUCES A PLATEAU BLOOD LEVEL OF 8 MICROGRAMS/1 VCM.
-- THIS PLATEAU IS REACHED WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF BEGINNING OF EXPOSURE.
-- A TEMPORARY DECLINE IN EXPOSURE LEVEL (FROM 1000 PPM TO 800 PPM) PRODUCED AN ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS, PROPORTIONED DROP IN THE BLOOD LEVEL FROM 8 IMCROGRAMS/1 TO 6 MICROGRAMS/1. NEED MORE EXPERIMENTS TO BE SURE IF THIS PROPROTIONAL DIRECT RELATIONSHIP IS TRUE, BUT MOST IMPORTAN IF IT IS.

- WHEN ANIMALS REMOVED FROM VAPOR, BLOOD LEVELS DROPPED TO VIRTUALLY ZERO WITHIN 30 MINUTES.

B. ORAL EXPOSURE DATA:

- PEAK BLOOD LEVEL REACHED IN ABOUT 6 MINUTES.
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- PEAK BLOOD LEVEL - 6 MICROGRAMS/M1 WHEN 500 GRAM RATE DOSED WITH A SINGLE DOSE OF 24.15 MGMS IN 100 ML WATER.
- THE HALF-LIFE OF VCM RETENTION IN BLOOD AFTER DOSAGE IS ABOUT 17.5 MINUTES.
- THIS IS MUCH LONGER THAN PREVIOUS HALF-LIFE (ABOUT 6 MINUTES) BUT THESE RATS ARE MUCH OLDER AND HEAVIER.

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- REASON FOR DIFFERENCES IN RETENTION IS THE AGE AND WEIGHT OF RATS COULD BE: (1) OLDER RATS HAVE MORE FATTY TISSUE. WE DO NOT YET HAVE DATA ON THE AMOUNT OF VCM SEQUESTERED IN TISSUES, SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT VCM COULD BE RETAINER IN THIS SURPLUS FAT. (2) DOW CHEMICAL WORKERS HAVE SHOWN THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN METABOLISM AS RATS AGE. (NOTE THESE DIFFERENCES MAY NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE THE SAME TYPE OF RESPONSE AS IN MAN SINCE RATS NEVER STOP GROWTH ENTIRELY).
- THE HPB GROUP PLAN TO STUDY MICROSOMAL ENZYMES STUDIED BY THE DOW GROUP, IN THE PRESENCE OF GENERAL METABOLISH, AND SPECIFIC ENZYME, INHIBITORS AND STIMULANTS, TO SEE WHETHER THESE METABOLIC CHANGES REALTE DIRECTLY TO CHANGES IN RETENTION OF VC.

C. FURTHER NOTE ON SO CALLED MEAT WRAPPERS SYNDROME
- DI-(2-ETHYL HEXYL) ADIPATE - AN ADDITIVE IN PVC PLASTIC ITEMS

- MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SYMPTOMS OBSERVED.

D. BURNING OF PLASTIC (PVC) GARBAGE ITEMS
- BURNING DOES NOT DEPOLYMERIZE PVC (IT DOES NOT YIELD VCM VAPOR)

- PRODUCTS OF BURNING ARE: - HCL, CO, AND TRACES OF PHOSGENE (COCL2). THIS WORK WAS DONE BY DIVISION OF BUILDING RESEARCH, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA.

4. BACKGROUND PAPER PREPARED BY CANADIANS FOR DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AND CHARTS ON BLOOD LEVEL
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FINDINGS AFTER EXPOSURE TO VC BEING POUCHED TO EUR/CAN. GOC OFFICIALS REQUESTED THAT ABOVE FINDINGS AND DATA NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. JOHNSON UNQTE KISSINGER

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